

monies of mourning for the dead,¹ at some of which the
 souls Annual
 of the departed were represented by living persons.
 Ten ^thede
 or more men would prepare themselves to play the part
 of among the
 the ghosts by fasting for several days, especially by
 abstaining California.
 from flesh. Disguised with paint and soot, adorned
 with
 feathers and grasses, they danced and sang in the
 village or
 rushed about In the forest by night with burning
 torches In
 their hands. After a time they presented themselves to
 the
 relations of the deceased, who looked upon these
 maskers
 as in very truth their departed friends and received
 them
 accordingly with an outburst of lamentation, the old
 women
 scratching their own faces and smiting their breasts
 with
 stones in token of mourning. These masquerades
 were
 generally held in February. During their
 continuance a
 strict fast was observed in the village.² Among the
 Konkaus
 of California the dance of the dead Is always held
 about the
 end of August and marks their New Year's Day.
 They
 collect a large quantity of food, clothing, baskets,
 ornaments,
 and whatever else the spirits are supposed to need in
 the
 other world. These they hang on a semicircle of
 boughs or
 small trees, cut and set in the ground leafless. In
 the
 centre burns a great fire, and hard by are the graves.
 The
 ceremony begins at evening and lasts till daybreak.
 As
 darkness falls, men and women sit on the graves and
 wail for
 the dead of the year. Then they dance round the fire
 with
 frenzied yells and whoops, casting from time to time
 the
 offerings Into the flames. All must be consumed before
 the
 first faint streaks of dawn glimmer in the East³ The
 Choctaws used to have a great respect for their dead.
 They Annual

did not bury their bodies but laid them on biers made of [^e dead^{of} bark and supported by forked sticks about fifteen feet high, among the

Choctaw

¹ S. Powers, *Tribes of California* deceased, mimicking^s their character- and Pueblo (Washington, 1877), pp. 328, 355, istic gait and gestures. Women and Indians. 356, 384. children were supposed to take these

² Kostromitonow, "Bemerkungen" mummers for real ghosts.

See A. C. Haddon, in *Reports of the Cambridge Anthropological Expedition* in K. F. v. Baer and Gr. v. Helmer- to Torres Straits[^] v. (Cambridge, 1904) sen's *Beitrdge zur Kenntniss des russischen ReicheS* i. (St. Petersburg, 1839) 256; *The Belief in Immortality and the Worship of the Dead*, i. pp. 88 sq. The natives of the western

176 sqq. islands of Torres Straits used to hold a great death-dance at which disguised men personated the ghosts of the lately

³ S. Powers, *Tribes of California*, pp. 437 sq.